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ACTION EA-12
INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-15 OIC-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 E-01 IC-15 NEA-06 NSCE-00 NSAE-00 SSO-00
SY-05 HA-06 TRSE-00 PM-09 PA-01 DCT-02 OME-01
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY J.L. DATE 9/30/82

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TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3423
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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E.O. 12965: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IS, IZ
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA CONDEMNS ISRAELI RAID
1. AUSTRALIAN MEDIA JUNE 10 UNIVERSALLY CONDEMNED ISRAELI RAID ON IRAQI NUCLEAR SITE IN STRONGEST TERMS. PRIME MINISTER FRASER ON JUNE 9, RESPONDING TO A POINTED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION FROM OPPOSITION LEADER HAYDEN, WAS CAUTIOUS IN ENUNCIATING GOA VIEW. HOWEVER HE DID ASSERT: "QUITE OBVIOUSLY THIS GOVERNMENT, AND I BELIEVE THE WHOLE HOUSE, WOULD VERY GREATLY REGRET ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD ADDTO TENSIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I HOPE THAT OUR APPROACH, ON A BIPARTISAN BASIS, CAN BE BASED ON THAT PRESUMPTION."
2. THE MELBOURNE "AGE" IN A JUNE 10 EDITORIAL SAYS "ISRAELIS WILL BE FEELING A LITTLE MORE SECURE TODAY AFTER THE RAID ON IRAQ'S NUCLEAR FACILITY, AND AT WHAT PRICE AND FOR HOW LONG?" EDITORIAL CONTINUES THAT ISRAELI ATTACK WAS MOST SERIOUS AND
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PROVOCATIVE, WITH A RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS, NONE OF WHICH REDOUNDS TO ISRAEL'S BENEFIT. EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT ISRAELIS HAVE ANGERED AND EMBARRASSED THE US, THAT PRESIDENT SADAT MUST BE FEELING BETRAYED, AND THAT PRESIDENT MITTERAND MAY HAVE TO THINK TWICE ABOUT THE IMAGE HE CULTIVATES AS A FRIEND OF ISRAEL. "AGE" MAINTAINS THAT BEGIN HAS DONE ISRAEL "ANOTHER SERIOUS DISSERVICE," AND CONCLUDES THAT BEGIN HAS EMPLOYED "EXTREMELY DANGEROUS TACTICS" IN A SERIOUS EFFORT TO LIFT HIS ELECTORAL PROSPECTS. IN A COMPANION PIECE FROM ITS MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT, "AGE" SUGGESTS THAT ISRAEL'S RAID "DASHES US PEACE HOPES IN THE LEBANON MISSILE CRISIS."
3. SYDNEY "MORNING HERALD" LEAD ARTICLE TODAY IS HEADED "ALLIES TURN TO ISRAEL." EDITORIAL CONDEMNS RAID AS "SURELY A DISASTROUS ERROR OF JUDGMENT." EDITORIAL ASSERTS

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THAT ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH EGYPT ARE NOW TERRIBLY DAMAGED AND ARE "ALSO SEVERELY COMPROMISED WITH ITS US ALLY," AS AMERICA SURVEYS THE RUINS OF PATIENT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS AND SUFFERS THE EMBARRASSMENT OF KNOWING THAT ISRAELIS DID NOT HESITATE IN USING RECENTLY ACQUIRED US JETS FOR ITS ATTACK. EDITORIAL THEN QUERIES "DOES ISRAEL BELIEVE THAT THE US CAN NOW PURSUE ITS AIM OF CREATING A SINAI PEACE-KEEPING FORCE COMPRISING NATIONS LIKE AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND?"

4. "CANBERRA TIMES" EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT ISRAELI VOTERS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY JUNE 30 TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WILL MAKE ISRAEL A SAFER PLACE TO BE. EDITORIAL THEN SAYS THT SHOULD BEGIN BE RETURNED, "ISRAELI ELECTORATE WILL BE CONDONING AN IRRESPONSIBLE, UNNECESSARY BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW." "CANBERRA TIMES" SAYS ISRAEL'S POSITION ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS FAR LESS SATISFACTORY

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THAN THAT OF IRAQ, POINTING OUT THAT IRAQ HAS RATIFIED NPT. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT "AUSTRALIA MUST NOT TAKE PART IN US-SPONSORED PEACE-KEEPING FORCE IN THE SINAI BECAUSE ISRAEL CANNOT BE TRUSTED TO CONSULT ASSOCIATES BEFORE TAKING UNILATERAL ACT THAT MIGHT AFFECT THEM."

5. "THE AUSTRALIAN" EDITORIAL ON WEDNESDAY ASSERTS THAT BY AUTHORIZING THE RAID, BEGIN HAS MADE IT A STRONGER POSSIBILITY THAN EVER BEFORE THAT ATOMIC WEAPONS MIGHT BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL. EDITORIAL POINTS OUT THAT "BY ISRAEL'S OWN ADMISSION, IT WILL ONLY TAKE TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS TO THREE YEARS FOR IRAQ TO BUILD ANOTHER REACTOR SO THAT IN EFFECT ALL THAT ISRAEL HAS ACCOMPLISHED IS A POSTPONEMENT OF IRAQ'S NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES AND AT WHAT EXPENSE?"

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